



High Country Construction, Inc.



Kelly Connell, a member of the Shoshone Tribe in Wyoming, bought High Country Construction, Incorporated (HCC) in 1982. Headquartered in Lander, Wyoming, HCC is a family-owned and operated company. This Native American firm has been certified as a disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) by the state of Wyoming and certified as an [8\(a\) firm](#) by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

HCC started out primarily as an oilfield services company. They provide oilfield services, including roustabouts, pipeline work, water haul, and location excavation. In the last ten years, HCC has expanded to road construction and other heavy civil earth-moving projects. This welcomed diversification has resulted in HCC splitting its company into two distinct, yet cooperative divisions - Oil Field Services and Road Construction.

Mr. Connell is also the primary owner and stockholder in CC & G, Incorporated - a bridge/structure construction company. The two divisions of HCC combined with the expert bridge knowledge found in CC & G, Inc., allow Connell and his staff the versatility they need to bid on and complete a wide variety of construction projects. "In the past we have been able to transfer staff and equipment from one division or company to the other to aid in certain project requirements. Being able to do this has allowed us the flexibility we need to meet our client's needs!"

As a former electrician on numerous construction sites, Connell came to realize that he had a strong interest in construction. "I found that construction was something I really enjoyed and could succeed at. Besides, it was in the family blood." Two of Connell's brothers also work in construction. One owns and operates a construction firm in Colorado and the other is employed as a superintendent of a large construction firm that performs all types of construction work nationwide.

When Connell acquired HCC, he employed approximately twenty-five full-time employees. Today, he employs what he calls "...an intelligent, hard-working and construction-wise" staff of seventy.

"My staff is what has really been the breath of life for this firm," says Connell. "The twenty-five employees that came with the company when I purchased it, brought with them a wealth of knowledge. This knowledge has been passed on and built upon over the years and is the reason we are successful today!" HCC has enjoyed an average gross income of \$9.2 million per year over the last three years.

HCC has bid on, and fulfilled, numerous contracts for Wyoming's Department of Transportation (WYDOT). One of HCC's largest projects was the Wyoming DOT US 30 Highway Reconstruction effort at Grangere. This project required the excavation of over 842,000 cubic yards of earth, the building of two bridges, several pipeline installations and roadway paving.

"We pride ourselves on being able to mobilize at a minute's notice and deploy the necessary equipment to get the job done," says Connell. "By providing fast and efficient service to our customers, we ensure a lasting relationship with them. We want all of our clients to be satisfied with the work we have done and call on us again for their future construction needs."

For more information on High Country Construction, Inc., please contact Kelly Connell by phone at (307) 322-4933; fax at (307) 332-6414 or by e-mail at hcc@rmisp.com